

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**SENT TO D.C.**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1-11-99

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran School

other name/site number

2. Location

street & number 2101 - 2107 West 21st Street not for publication  
city or town Chicago vicinity state Illinois code IL  
county Cook code 031 zip code 60608

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William L. Fisher - SHP  
Signature of certifying official

12/14/99  
Date



US 21/985 NHP Registration Form  
St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran School  
Cook County, IL

Category of Property (Check only one box)

building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION Sub: church school

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: WORK IN PROGRESS Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE / Limestone

roof SHINGLES

walls BRICK

other WOOD

STONE / Limestone

METAL / Iron

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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A. Statement of Significance  
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

01-01/100 NHP Registration Form  
St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran School  
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Architectural Significance (Enter categories from instructions)  
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1882

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References  
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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Extensive documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Concordia Historical Institute, St. Louis, MO

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10. Geographical Data

Area of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Nothing	Zone Easting	Nothing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>443670</u>	<u>4633540</u>	<u>3</u>
3	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>4</u>	<u>    </u>

     See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Raymond Terry Tatum / historic preservation consultant

organization      date August 20, 1999

street & number 6434 North Washensaw Avenue telephone (773) 761 - 6055  
city or town Chicago state IL zip code 60645

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran School  
Cook County, IL

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.

Name Ed Stansbury

Street & number 815 Edystone

Telephone 773-276-0633(w)  
708-366-1901(h)

City or town River Forest state IL zip code 60305

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.





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context of the immediate neighborhood, allowing the building to be freestanding, set back slightly from both streets, and to have all four facades clad with face brick, rather than the common brick more typically used for side and rear elevations of Chicago buildings. Some landscaping remains in the form of mature trees along the north facade, facing 21st Street. Portions of a historic wrought-iron fence remain along 21st and Hoyne.

Historically, the school building was part of a larger complex of buildings owned by St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church and centered on the 21st Street - Hoyne Avenue intersection. To the north, across 21st Street, stands the church itself, designed in 1887 by the Chicago architect Frederick Ahlschlager. West of the church is a brick building, built in 1897 as a three-story building housing part of the St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran School. (Due to a decline in enrollment, this building was reduced in height to one story in 1927 and converted to a gymnasium-hall building.)

The immediate neighborhood surrounding the St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran School contains streetscapes and individual buildings typical of the working-class history of the Lower West Side community area. Most buildings surrounding the school were built between the 1870s and World War I, are small in scale, built of historically typical materials such as wood, brick and stone, and detailed in historic architectural styles common to Chicago, including Italianate and Romanesque Revival. The Douglas (now Blue) elevated line of the Chicago Transit Authority, built in the 1890s, runs east-west between West 21st and Cullerton streets, just behind St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church. Its Hoyne Avenue stop encouraged the development of two- and three-story commercial-residential buildings along Hoyne itself and at nearby intersections such as 21st Street. Built of brick, these shop buildings sometimes have limestone front facades. Interspersed with these buildings are an eclectic mix of frame cottages and brick two- and three-flats. The oldest sit below current street grade and have small front yards, while others are built flush with the public sidewalks. Some frame houses have brick commercial front additions. Directly to the west of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran School, on the south side of West 21st Street, is a two-story brick factory building from the early 1920s, somewhat unusual for the immediate neighborhood, but more common in the larger context of the Lower West Side.

### Current Appearance of the St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran School Exterior

The St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran School is two-stories in height, with a raised basement. It is cubic in its overall shape and symmetrical in its arrangement of doors and windows. With its

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relatively smooth brick walls, few projecting architectural elements, and low hipped roof, the school gives a visual sense of self-contained volume.

All four facades of the building share common characteristics. The foundation is randomly laid, buff-colored limestone. Exterior basement walls are red brick laid in a variation of American (sometimes called common) bond, with six stretcher rows to one header row. Basement windows have one-over-one, double-hung wooden sash with buff-colored limestone sills and brick lintels. Some have simple wrought-iron gullies. A projecting buff-colored limestone water table runs completely around the building, separating the basement and upper walls. Upper walls are reddish-brown in color and also are laid in a variation of American bond, with five stretcher rows to one header row. Some first- and second-floor windows retain the historic window configuration of six-over-six, double-hung wooden sash, while others have one-over-one, double-hung sash. Existing sash is painted cream or weathered to bare wood. (Many windows are currently protected by plywood for security reasons during rehabilitation.) All upper-floor windows have segmental-arched, buff-colored limestone lintels set flush with the surrounding brick wall. First-floor windows have individual, buff-colored limestone sills, while second-floor windows rest on a projecting, buff-colored limestone sill running continuously around the building. Below the building's cornice are two bands of brick corbels. The lower band is composed of three stepped courses forming triangles. The upper band has several brick courses forming an upside-down castellated corbel. The cornice itself is white-painted pressed metal and has a simple profile running uninterrupted around the edge of the building's roofline. A shallow-pitched hipped roof, clad with shingles, is topped by a pressed-metal steeple. A wrought-iron fence with cast-iron posts, ornamented with low-relief foliate ornament, surrounds the property on the 21st and Illoyne street sides.

The north (main) facade, facing West 21st Street, is five bays wide. It has brick pilasters with paired pressed-metal brackets at each building corner and flanking the central bay, which contains the main entrance. These pilasters divide the facade into a 2-1-2 bay configuration and are accented by buff-colored limestone blocks at the water table and second-floor sill levels. The main entrance was modified in the early 1900s with a one-story projecting brick entry with a flat roof and simple Classical pilasters flanking wooden double doors. The basement can be entered through the side of this entry pavilion. The top of the original entrance surround, with its simply detailed entablature and segmental-arched pediment, can be seen above and behind this addition. Above the entry are decorative stone panels with "EV. LUTHERAN SCHOOL" and "1882" set in raised letters. (The "UL" in "SCHOOL" has disappeared through weathering, but the "ghost" of the

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letters remains.) Windows are arranged evenly across the facade, with the central entrance flanked by two windows on each side on the basement, first and second floors. Basement windows have one-over-one, double-hung wooden sash, while most first- and second-floor windows retain their historic six-over-six, double-hung wooden sash. An additional second-floor window, directly above the entrance, has been partially filled with red brick, glass block, and newer one-over-one, double-hung sash.

The east facade, facing South Hoyne Avenue, is six bays wide. Brick pilasters similar to those on the north facade mark each building corner and the center of the facade, dividing it into a 3-3 bay configuration. Six windows on each floor (basement, first floor, and second floor) are similar to those found on the north facade in overall detailing. Basement windows have one-over-one, double-hung wooden sash, while most first- and second-floor windows retain their historic six-over-six, double-hung wooden sash. One exception is the northernmost second-floor window, which was converted into a fire escape with a door, the threshold of which is lower than adjacent window sills. (The fire escape itself has been removed.)

The south facade, facing the alley, is five bays wide and is very similar to the north facade in detailing and window configuration. It has a larger setback from the property line than the other three facades, with the land currently graveled for parking. Brick pilasters similar to those on the north and east facades mark each building corner and flank the central entrance, dividing the facade into a 2-1-2 bay configuration identical to that of the north facade. A simple set of wooden steps, without railings, leads to the central entrance, decorated with a Classical surround formed from raised brick pilasters, accented with limestone bases and capitals, and a buff-colored limestone entablature and segmental-arched pediment. The entablature and pediment are identical with those found at the north entrance. A 14-pane transom above wooden double doors provides light for the inner vestibule. (The existing steps and doors are crude replacements for the historic building elements.) A basement entrance is below this central entrance. Window arrangement and decorative treatments are similar to those on the north and east facades. Windows are arranged evenly across the facade, with the entrance flanked by two windows on each side on the basement, first and second floors. An additional second-floor window is placed directly above the entrance. Basement windows have one-over-one, double-hung wooden sash, with some also retaining historic wrought-iron gilles. Most first- and second-floor windows retain their historic six-over-six, double-hung wooden sash. A brick chimney projects from the southwestern corner of the building.

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The west facade, the only one not facing a public right-of-way, is similar in overall configuration and detailing with the east facade. Brick pilasters create a similar 3-3 bay configuration and windows are arranged in a similar manner with identical decorative treatment. Basement windows have one-over-one, double-hung wooden sash, while most first- and second-floor windows retain their historic six-over-six, double-hung wooden sash.

The low-pitched hipped roof has no dormers or projections other than a central cupola, built of wood and painted red, white and blue. Each side of the cupola has a pair of round-arched, louvered openings, ornamented with large keystones, and simple Classical pilasters marking each corner. These pilasters visually support an entablature running continuously around the cupola. Round-arched pediments topped by long, narrow finials ornament this entablature. A steeply-pitched truncated-hip roof, covered with shingles, rises above. It is topped by a long, narrow metal finial.

### Interior

The St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran School's interior is divided between two upper floors and a basement. Each floor is further subdivided into a central hallway that runs north-south through the center of the building, flanked by high-ceilinged classrooms and auxiliary spaces to both the east and west.

On the building's first floor, the north entrance, although hidden by the latter entry pavilion, retains its historic wooden frame and double doors, paneled in a one-over-two pattern. The south entrance, however, no longer retains historic doors, although the existing double doors do respect the dimensions of the original opening. The first-floor hallway connecting the two entrances has simple wooden, tongue-and-groove wainscoting and is visually dominated by two wooden staircases, rising from the center of the hallway to the second-floor hall. The north staircase hugs the east wall of the hallway, while the south staircase is against the west wall. The staircases are also detailed with wooden wainscot balustrades and have boldly turned, round wooden newel posts at the bottom of each. Wooden doors with transoms provide access to first-floor classrooms from the hallway; some retain historic doors paneled in a 2-1-2 configuration. Additional transoms with simple moldings embellish the hallway walls. Most woodwork, including doors, door frames, transom frames, wainscoting and staircase newel posts, are painted pale yellow.

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The first floor historically had two classrooms, one on each side of the hallway. Floors were wood, and walls and ceilings were plastered. Wood wainscoting, similar to that found in the first-floor hallway, originally covered the lower portion of the classroom walls. Simple wood surrounds with curved moldings were used for doors and windows. Most of the plaster walls and ceilings and wood window surrounds had been damaged by water infiltration, and much of the wood wainscoting had disappeared in previous unsympathetic renovations and repairs, by the time the current owner acquired the building in 1999.

The basement has a central hallway running through the center of the building. Exterior doorways, under the north and south entrances, provide direct access from the outside. Internal access to the basement is gained through wood staircases placed under the main staircases. These stairs are also wainscoted and have visually prominent posts at an intermediate landing, made of wood, and at the bottom of the staircase. These newel posts, unlike those used for the main staircases, are square and carved with both vertical and horizontal incising. A large room, believed to have been a classroom or lunchroom and similar in size and configuration to those on the first floor, was to the east side of the hallway. To the west of the hallway, the basement once had a small caretaker's apartment. These rooms now are without plasterwork or wood detailing, with exposed brick walls, stone foundations and concrete floors.

The second floor originally had a large center hallway, similar in size and configuration to the first-floor hallway and providing access to two second-floor classrooms, similar in size and configuration to those on the first floor. These classrooms had similar finishes and detailing, historically as those on the first floor, including wood floors, plaster walls with wood wainscoting, plaster ceilings, and wood window and door surrounds. Much of the floor's historic building fabric, including doors and moldings, had disappeared before the current owner had taken possession of the building. In addition, most finishes in the classrooms, including plaster, wainscoting, and window surrounds, had been badly damaged by water or had disappeared by that time.

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### Section 8 - Narrative Statement of Significance

#### Summary

The St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran School is locally significant under Criterion C for architecture as a rare and well-preserved example of an Italianate-style school building in Chicago. Its period of significance is 1882, the year that it was constructed by St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church to house a portion of the church's thriving parochial school. The building meets Criterion Consideration A for religious properties. Although it was constructed and owned by a religious institution during its period of significance, its historic significance is due to its architecture.

Within the historic context of Chicago school buildings, the St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran School is a early surviving example and unusual in its use of the Italianate style. The large majority of Chicago school buildings that survive today and that have been documented by the Chicago Historic Resources Survey date from the 1890s and later. Only a handful of school buildings, including St. Matthew, remain from the early 1880s and before. In addition, most Chicago school buildings of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were designed in the Romanesque or Classical revival styles. St. Matthew's use of the Italianate style is uncommon and is one of the few examples remaining in the city.

#### The Italianate Style and St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran School

The St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran School at 21st Street and Hoyne Avenue was built in the Italianate style, a popular and widespread architectural style in the United States from approximately 1850 to 1890. It was especially common in Midwestern cities and towns such as Chicago, which were growing rapidly during the years of the style's popularity.

The Italianate style began in England as part of the Picturesque movement, which was a reaction to the formality of Neoclassicism and the Greek Revival, dominant stylistic movements in both Europe and North America during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. John Nash's villa at Cronkhill and the Regents Park Village in London are early examples of buildings based on the visually charming villas, farmhouses and other buildings of rural northern Italy, the original inspiration for the style. The American architect Alexander Jackson Davis designed several Italianate style houses as illustrations for Andrew Jackson Downing's books extolling suburban and country living. Many of these early Italianate buildings, built before the Civil War,

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were closely patterned after the asymmetrical forms, projecting verandahs, and tall towers associated with rural Italian villas. Henry Austin's Victoria Mansion for R.S. Morse in Portland, Maine, built in 1859, is an outstanding example from this early period.

But the Italianate style also was used for a wide variety of building types other than houses, including commercial and institutional buildings, and the style was adapted to working-class buildings as well during its years of popularity. The style's visual characteristics therefore could vary greatly depending upon the expansiveness of the site and the available budget. The most common characteristics associated with the Italianate style were round-arched windows, doors, and porch openings and brackets, often paired, that visually supported projecting cornices. Hipped roofs were commonly used, often paired with cupolas. Although itame Italianate-style houses and small commercial buildings were not uncommon, most Italianate-style buildings in Chicago were built of brick or stone, often with contrasting trim. Proportions were vertical, with high, narrow windows. In urban areas such as Chicago, where high land values and building costs encouraged regularity of building form, most Italianate buildings were cubic in overall form, with regular, often symmetrical facades. Red brick walls with light-colored limestone trim, prominent window and door moldings, and projecting pressed metal cornices were common elements among Chicago Italianate-style buildings.

The St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran School is a late example of the use of the Italianate style for an institutional building, in this case a parochial school. The Romanesque Revival was becoming more popular for such buildings in Chicago during the 1880s. Yet it remains a good example of the style as used for a Chicago school. Its overall symmetry, dark brick walls contrasting with light stone trim, tall, double-hung windows with rounded lintels, Classical door surrounds, cornice supported by double brackets, and central cupola with stylized Classical ornament are all common aspects of the Italianate style as used in Chicago. St. Matthew is not an elaborate example of the style. Its construction by a working-class congregation precluded much elaborate ornament. Yet it clearly expresses through its materials, forms and overall composition the characteristics of the Italianate style.

The Italianate style was most commonly used in Chicago for residential and commercial buildings. Houses and flat buildings of the 1860s through the 1880s especially were constructed in the style throughout Chicago, with many surviving examples in community areas such as Lincoln Park, West Town, and the Lower West Side. Store buildings along major shopping

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streets such as Milwaukee Avenue and 18th Street also provide visual evidence of the style's popularity during the years following the Chicago Fire of 1871.

However, relatively few examples of Italianate-style schools survive in Chicago. Only three other Italianate-style schools were identified by the Chicago Historic Resources Survey, conducted by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks and the Chicago Department of Planning and Development between 1983 and 1996, in the St. Matthew School's immediate context, the Lower West Side and the adjacent community areas of the Near West Side, Near South Side, Armour Square, Bridgeport, McKinley Park, Brighton Park, South Lawndale and North Lawndale. These three schools are the oldest section of the Ward Public School, located at 2703 - 09 South Shields Avenue in the Armour Square community area; the oldest section of the McClellan Public School, at 3505 - 11 South Wallace Avenue in the Bridgeport community area; and the Mark Sheridan Public School at 2711 South Wallace Avenue, also in Bridgeport. All three possess characteristics of the Italianate style, with dark brick walls contrasting with light stone trim and projecting metal cornices supported by brackets. Ward has round-arched windows with contrasting stone lintels, while McClellan and Sheridan have flat-headed windows, also with contrasting stone lintels. All three form the nucleus of larger school complexes, with large additions from the first decade of the twentieth century.

**Nineteenth-century Chicago schools and the St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran School**

The St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran School is one of the oldest school buildings remaining in Chicago and possesses both the physical characteristics common to nineteenth-century schools and good integrity. Fred E. H. Schroeder, in his essay on schoolhouses published in *Built in the U.S.A. - American Buildings from Airports to Zoos*, noted that the basic form of nineteenth-century school buildings in the United States was defined in a short work on school architecture by William A. Alcott, published in 1832. In Alcott's view, an ideal school house contained large, high-ceilinged classrooms, large windows providing good light and air circulation, and adequate playgrounds. This basic building program became the standard for school building construction through the rest of the century.<sup>1</sup>

St. Matthew is a survivor from the late nineteenth century, a time when Chicago was growing rapidly and the need for new schools seemed never ending. The noted Chicago architectural

<sup>1</sup> Fred E. H. Schroeder, "Schoolhouses," in *Built in the U.S.A. - American Buildings from Airports to Zoos*, page 151.



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Historian Carl Condit quotes Chicago Board of Education statistics that the city built 169 public school buildings between 1871 and 1900.<sup>2</sup> The number of private schools, including church schools, was also large. Based on information gathered by the Chicago Historic Resources Survey, certain common physical characteristics of Chicago schools during this period can be identified. They commonly were two to four stories in height and built with load-bearing exterior walls of brick, usually red. Facades were symmetrical, with central entrances embellished with ornament. Windows were tall and narrow. Classrooms, the number of which could vary, opened off central corridors, dominated by wooden staircases. St. Matthew is a good example of this basic building type.

Within the immediate context of the Lower West Side and adjacent community areas of the Near West Side, Near South Side, Armour Square, Bridgeport, McKinley Park, Brighton Park, South Lawndale and North Lawndale, 35 public and private elementary and high schools built before 1940 were documented by the Chicago Historic Resources Survey. Of these, only 14 were built, all or in part, before 1900. Of these 14, only four are older than the St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran School.

The oldest of these four schools also is the oldest documented school building in Chicago, St. Ignatius College Preparatory, a private Catholic school located at 1072 West Roosevelt Road in the Near West Side community area. It was designed by Toussaint Menard in 1867 in the Second Empire style. The other three schools are public schools built by the Chicago Board of Education. The original section of the Ward Public School, located at 2703 - 09 South Shields Avenue in the Armour Square community area, dates from 1874. In Bridgeport, the oldest section of the McClellan Public School, at 3545 - 11 South Wallace Avenue, dates from 1881. Also from 1881 is the original building for the Mark Sheridan Public School at 2711 South Wallace, also located in Bridgeport. All three of these public schools were designed in the Italianate style.

Only three of the remaining schools in these nine community areas date from the 1880s. These are the original section of the Thomas Jefferson Public School, located at 1506 - 14 West Fillmore Street in the Near West Side community area, built in 1884, the Walsh Public School at 2001 - 11 South Peoria Street, located in the Lower West Side, built in 1886, and the John C. Haines Public School, located in Armour Square at 231 - 311 West 3rd Place, the oldest section

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<sup>2</sup> Carl Condit, *Chicago, 1910 - 29: Building, Planning, and Urban Technology*, page 11

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of which also dates from 1886. Nine school buildings date from the 1890s, while the rest were built after 1900.

The St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran School is unusual in that it retains its original exterior form dating from 1882. St. Ignatius and the Ward, McClellan and Sheridan public schools all have had substantial additions. Especially in the case of the three public schools, these additions are larger than the original buildings and alter the viewer's perception of the buildings' original appearances in their streetscapes. In addition, St. Matthew was built as a parochial school. Church schools were common in nineteenth-century Chicago, but relatively few survive. Next to St. Ignatius and St. Matthew, the oldest church-built school located within these nine community areas and documented by the Chicago Historic Resources Survey was the St. Vitus School, a Roman Catholic parochial school located at 1812 - 16 South Paulina Street in the Lower West Side, built in 1903, more than 20 years after St. Matthew.

**The Early History of the Lower West Side**

The earliest nonnative settlement in the Lower West Side community area occurred in the 1830s, when a few farmers settled in the mostly swampy flatlands spreading southwest of the new settlement of Chicago. As Chicago grew, the city annexed the area in two stages, the northeastern one-third in 1837, the rest in 1853. The completion of the Illinois & Michigan Canal in 1848 and the construction of the Chicago & Alton Railroad in the 1850s encouraged industrial development along the South Branch of the Chicago River, the eastern and southern boundaries of the community area.

The Lower West Side remained relatively sparsely settled until the early 1870s, when the Chicago Fire of 1871 encouraged many Chicagoans burned out of their homes to relocate outside the fire district. It was during the next four decades, through World War I, that the community area gained its historic working-class character. It became a port of entry for thousands of European immigrants, who moved into modest cottages and houses and small flat buildings. Many were Bohemian Czech and much of the neighborhood became known informally as "Pilsen," after the second largest city in Bohemia. However, the Lower West Side also attracted large numbers of other nationalities, including Germans, Poles, Swedes, Lithuanians, Slovaks, Croatians, and Italians.

Major industrial employers established themselves along the edges of the community, including the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad yards, lumber yards, and the garment manufacturing

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facilities of the Hart, Schaffner & Marx Company, the largest clothing maker in the nation at the turn of the century. Especially important was the McCormick Reaper Company, which built the first of several factory buildings at 27th Street and Western Avenue in 1873, encouraging both residential and commercial development in the western half of the Lower West Side, including the area around the St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, the first church building of which was built at 21st Street and Hoyne Avenue in September 1871.

### The Establishment of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church and School

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church is located in a section of the Lower West Side known informally as Heart of Chicago. Located west of Damen, near Cermak Road (formerly 23rd Street), Heart of Chicago was the location of the largest German community in the Lower West Side, which developed rapidly during the 1860s and 1870s. Several important institutions served the neighborhood's residents, including St. Matthew and St. Paul Roman Catholic Church, located two blocks to the south at 22nd Place and Hoyne Avenue.

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church was one of several churches established on the northwest and southwest sides of Chicago during the nineteenth century by the Lutheran Church of Missouri, Ohio and other States, now known as the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. With the first Lutheran church in Chicago established in 1847, Lutheranism was the most prominent Protestant denomination in Chicago during the late 1800s, catering to those immigrant groups, including Germans and Swedes, from countries where Lutheranism was a strong presence. The denomination grew rapidly in Chicago, from fewer than 500 members in 1850 to 75,000 in 1870.

Several Lutheran synods, or associations of Lutheran churches, were represented by individual congregations in Chicago. The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod was the largest of these. Founded in Chicago in 1847 and headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri, practically all early members of the Missouri Synod were German immigrants and their children. All activities, including church services and classes, were held exclusively in German. German immigration to Chicago rapidly increased after the Civil War, until by 1900 close to one-fourth of Chicago's population was estimated to be German by birth or heritage. The Missouri Synod was attractive to many of these Chicagoans. By 1881, the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod had 13 churches in Chicago. By 1895, the Missouri Synod had 30 churches and 55,552 members in Chicago, and 41 churches by 1907. Most of these churches, including St. Matthew, were located in working-class neighborhoods such as the Lower West Side that were home to the many German-born workers whose livelihood was tied to the many nearby factories.

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Nineteenth-century German Protestant immigrants saw religious instruction as the heart of education. In his study of German Lutheran churches in Chicago, Sharvy Umbeck notes that G. H. Loeber, an early German Lutheran settler in the Midwest, stated that one of the main reasons many German Protestants had for emigrating to America was "to avoid having children trained in schools which do not teach Christianity."<sup>3</sup> The first constitution of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, instituted in 1847, granted great autonomy to individual churches, but required the establishment of a parochial school as a prerequisite for membership. Individual Lutherans were expected to send their children to the local parochial church. It was not mandatory, but was stated as a moral responsibility that parents accepted upon having children. As an early twentieth-century writer noted,

The Christian day school is a most important and necessary institution to assure the sound progressive development and the stability of our congregations. Congregations that do not establish day schools for their children and engage Christian teachers to teach them commit a grievous sin. Parents who send their children to public schools in preference to their own parish schools are equally culpable. Congregations that are not willing to establish schools should be duly admonished, and if such admonition is not needed shall be expelled from the Synod. It is the duty of the church to provide well trained and qualified teachers for the parish schools.<sup>4</sup>

Dominated by ethnic Germans and conservative in its doctrine, Missouri Synod Lutheranism believed that it was the repository of the "true faith" and that the church had a strong responsibility, along with parents, to protect and nurture the proper spiritual lives of children through the establishment of parochial schools. Therefore, the creation of church schools was an important activity of the Missouri Synod. Often, a church school would be established in a neighborhood before the church itself. During the nineteenth century, instruction was in German and liberally laced with religious teachings. These church schools provided a bulwark against rapid assimilation into American society and the loss of German Lutheran identity. These parochial schools, with their use of German and their emphasis on the "pure doctrine" of

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<sup>3</sup> Quoted in Sharvy Greiner Umbeck, "The Social Adaptations of a Selected Group of German-Background Protestant Churches in Chicago," Ph.D. dissertation, University of Chicago, 1940, page 109.

<sup>4</sup> M. Wiederanders, "Our Problem of Elementary Christian Education," *Kirchliche Zeitschrift* (1925), pages 104 - 5; quoted in Umbeck, page 110.

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Lutheranism, also was seen by Missouri Synod churches as a barrier to the swelling tides of "Americanism." By educating children in church schools, the Missouri Synod hoped to insulate them from influences, both secular and religious, that might tempt them away from the beliefs of Missouri Synod Lutheranism. A 50th-anniversary book published by St. Matthew, *Zum Goldenem Jubiläum der Evang. Luth. St. Matthäus-Gemeinde*, stated, "Our Synod has always encouraged the establishment of such schools and seen to it that Christian teachers are trained to lead these schools."<sup>5</sup>

St. Matthew was the eighth Missouri Synod church established in Chicago, an offshoot of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church at 19th and Johnson street, farther east in the Lower West Side. Typical of the Missouri Synod, a mission church school was established first, in 1869 in a building at Paulina Street and 21st Place. In September 1871, 30 families belonging to Immanuel but living near the mission school split off from the parent church and founded St. Matthew. The first church building, a frame Gothic Revival building, was built in 1872 at the northwest corner of 21st Street and Hoyne Avenue. The new church's basement was equipped to house the church school, which moved there from the older Paulina Street school building. No longer needed, this school building was sold and converted to commercial use.

The increased movement of Chicagoans into the neighborhood during the 1870s, many of whom were German, brought about increased school attendance and expansion. Directly to the west of the church itself, a two-story brick school building with two classrooms was constructed in 1876, next to the pastor's house. Then, in 1882, an additional school building (and the building being considered by this nomination) was constructed across 21st Street from the church. Built for \$12,000, it was dedicated on October 1, 1882. The architect remains unknown.

**Later History of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran School**

In 1887, St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church burned down. It was rebuilt as a brick church with stone trim to the designs of Chicago architect Frederick Ahlschlager. Ten years later, in 1897, the two-story brick school built in 1876 and located to the west of the church was rebuilt as a three-story school building.

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<sup>5</sup> *Zum Goldenem Jubiläum der Evang. Luth. St. Matthäus-Gemeinde*. Chicago: St. Matthews Evangelical Lutheran Church, page 5.

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St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church was a well-established church at the turn of the century with approximately 3,000 members. However, enrollment in the St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran School gradually declined through the early years of the twentieth century. In the late 1870s, the school had had 996 children and 9 teachers. By the 1920s, it had declined enough that instruction was consolidated in the 1882 school building and the 1897 building was remodeled as a one-story gymnasium and hall. Then, in 1962, the school was closed entirely. Dwindling enrollments, combined with the projected expense of upkeep and renovation, were the reasons for this decision.

In general, this history of slow decline mirrors the larger history of Missouri Synod parochial schools in Chicago. As German immigration declined during the early 1900s, the number of families wanting to send their children to a German-speaking parochial school declined as well. In 1902, 8,780 students studied in 34 schools. During the twentieth century, the number of students declined despite the increased number of schools. In 1910, Missouri Synod parochial schools contained only 6,874 students, spread among 39 schools. By 1970, this number had declined to 6,224 students in 39 schools, and by 1930, total enrollment had dropped to 5,823 students despite having 44 schools in Chicago. This decline continued during the Great Depression, with 5,450 students enrolled in 43 schools by 1938.

The St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran School building remained in the possession of St. Matthew for several years after its closing, and was used for Sunday School classes and as the pastor's office until 1965, when it was sold to the Living Word of Faith Community Pentecostal Church. In 1998, the building was bought by its current owner and rehabilitation into loft apartments began. The school building remains a fine example of an Italianate-style school building, unusual in the context of Chicago architecture.

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**Section 10**

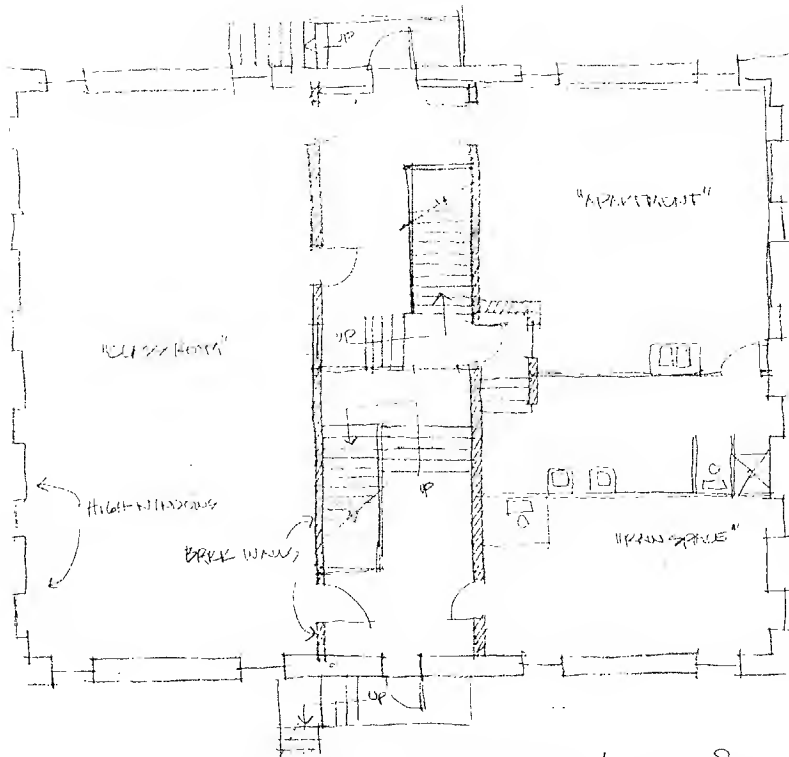
**Verbal Boundary Description**

The St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran School occupies the property in the City of Chicago that is legally defined as follows:

Lots 1, 2, 3 & 4 of Chas. W. Clayton's Sub. of the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Block 59 in Sub. of  
Sec. 19-39-14.

**Boundary Justification**

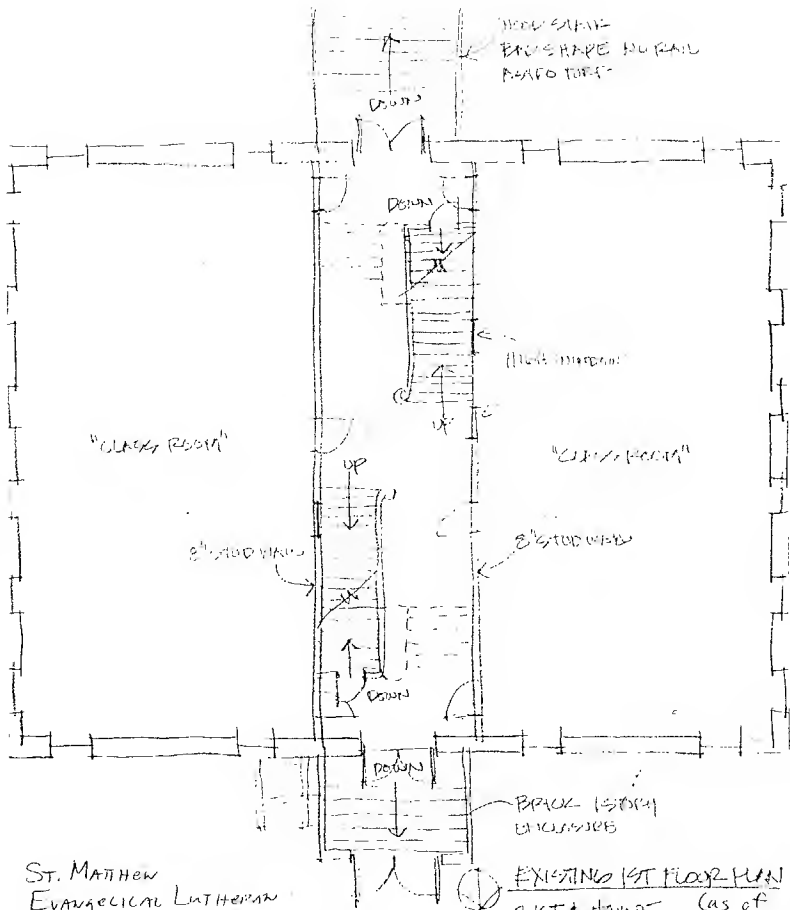
The nominated property includes the building historically associated with the St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran School and the building lots upon which the building sits.



ST. MATTHEW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

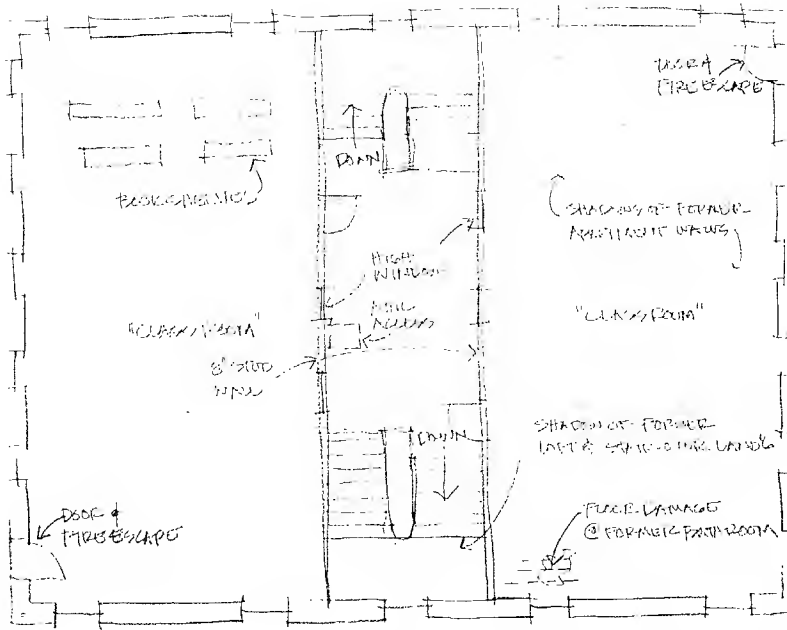
EXISTING BASEMENT PLAN (AS OF 3/91)

21ST & HOYMAN (2101 - 2107 West 21st St)  
 ± 1/8" = 1'-0"



ST. MATTHEW  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
SCHOOL  
2101 - 2107 West 24th Street

EXISTING 1ST FLOOR PLAN  
24' x 110' (as of  
3/99)  
± 1/8" = 1' = 0"



ST. MATTHEW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
 EXISTING 2ND FLOOR PLAN (AS OF 3/90) <sup>SCHOOL</sup>  
 21ST & ASHLEY (2101-2167 W. 21ST ST)  
 ± 1/2" = 1'-0"



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Preservation Services

IN REPLY REFER TO

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to announce actions on the following properties for the National Register of Historic Places. For further information contact Edson Beall via voice (202) 343-1572, fax (202) 343-1836, regular or E-mail: [Edson\\_Beall@nps.gov](mailto:Edson_Beall@nps.gov)

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WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES 1/24/00 THROUGH 1/28/00

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Locality, Reference Number, NHL, Action, Date, Multiple Name

COLORADO, HANMESA COUNTY, Hudson Hardware, 225 Main St., Alamosa, 03000063, LISTED, 1/24/00

COLORADO, EL PASO COUNTY, McGregor Hall, 330 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, 9901705, LISTED, 1/27/00 (Colorado College MPS)

COLORADO, EL PASO COUNTY, Tabor Hall, 206 Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, 9901704, LISTED, 1/27/00 (Colorado College MPS)

COLORADO, LAS ANIMAS COUNTY, First Baptist Church, 800 San Pedro St., Trinidad, 0006005, LISTED, 1/28/00

FLORIDA, LAKE COUNTY, Methodist Episcopal Church, South at Duvalville, 101 W. Everett St., Duvalville, 9901717, LISTED, 1/27/00

GEORGIA, RICHMOND COUNTY, United States Post Office and Courthouse, 503 F. Ford St., Augusta, 9901848, LISTED, 1/21/00

ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY, St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran School, 2101-2107 W. 41st St., Chicago, 99001710, LISTED, 1/24/00

ILLINOIS, MADISON COUNTY, Hubb Starford, 229 Market St., Alton, 9901709, LISTED, 1/27/00

ILLINOIS, WPMILLER COUNTY, Edo Building, 101-1-3 N. Versailles St., Danville, 9901171, LISTED, 1/27/00

LOUISIANA, JEFFERSON PARISH, Kerens House, 101 Monte St., Gretna, 0000006, LISTED, 1/25/00

LOUISIANA, RICHMOND PARISH, Edo Municipal Bandshell Park, Gretna and Louisiana Sts., Felth, 00000097, LISTED 1/26/00

MICHIGAN, TOWNEVA COUNTY, Parke Road-Charlotte Paper Bridge, Charke Rd. over Charlotte River, Bruce Township, 00000000, LISTED 1/25/00 (Highway Bridges of Michigan MPS)

MICHIGAN, TOWNEVA COUNTY, Lake Leelanau Narrows Bridge, M-104 over Lake Leelanau Narrows, Leelanau Township, 9901732, LISTED, 1/27/00 (Highway Bridges of Michigan MPS)

MICHIGAN, TOWNEVA COUNTY, Van Wagner, Murray P. Memorial Bridge, MI 156 over Silver Cr., Minnetonka, 9901731, LISTED, 1/27/00 (Highway Bridges of Michigan MPS)

MICHIGAN, WASHTENAW COUNTY, Leahy River-Gand Trunk Western Railroad Bridge, Leahy St. over Gand Trunk Railroad, Bismarck, 99001750, LISTED, 1/27/00 (Highway Bridges of Michigan MPS)

MICHIGAN, WASHTENAW COUNTY, Gillespie Street-Clinco River Bridge, Gillespie St. over Clinco R., Pontiac, 99001729, LISTED, 1/27/00 (Highway Bridges of Michigan MPS)

MICHIGAN, WASHTENAW COUNTY, Trunk Road-Duau Trunk Western Railroad Bridge, Trunkbridge Rd. over GW Railroad, Bloomfield Hills, 00000010, LISTED, 1/28/00 (Highway Bridges of Michigan MPS)

MICHIGAN, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, Indian Trail Road-Belle River Bridge, Indian Trail Rd. over Belle River, China Township, 00000012, LISTED, 1/28/00 (Highway Bridges of Michigan MPS)

MICHIGAN, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, Jeddo Road-South Branch Mill Creek Drain Bridge, Jeddo Rd. over S Branch Mill Creek Drain, Brookway Township, 00000013, LISTED, 1/28/00 (Highway Bridges of Michigan MPS)

MICHIGAN, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, Master Road-Belle River Bridge, Masters Rd. over Belle R., Riley Township, 9901728, LISTED, 1/27/00 (Highway Bridges of Michigan MPS)

MICHIGAN, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, Verrier Street-Swan Creek Bridge, Verrier St. over Swan Cr., Iia Township, 00000017, LISTED, 1/28/00 (Highway Bridges of Michigan MPS)

MICHIGAN, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, Madama Road-Fine River Bridge, Madama Rd. over Fine River, Saint Clair Township, 00000014, LISTED, 1/25/00 (Highway Bridges of Michigan MPS)

NEW MEXICO, BERNALILLO COUNTY, Hendon Building, 3001 Monte Vista Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, 9901678, LISTED, 1/27/00 (Auto-oriented Commercial Development in Albuquerque, MPS)

NEW MEXICO, BERNALILLO COUNTY, Newlander Apartments, 616 Oak Ave., Albuquerque, 9901677, LISTED, 1/27/00 (Multi-unit Dwellings in Albuquerque, New Mexico MPS)

NORTH CAROLINA, ASHE COUNTY, Todd Historic District, Along Todd Railroad Grade Rd., Big Hill Rd., and Carter Miller Rd., Todd, 00000017, LISTED, 1/28/00

OHIO, BELMONT COUNTY, Wesig Building, 3336 Belmont St., Belvoir, 0000018, LISTED, 1/28/00

OREGON, WASHINGTON COUNTY, Wesley-Helm Historic District, Roughly bounded by SW 2nd, 6th, and Jefferson Sts. and OR 20/34 by Elm, Corvallis, 9901714, LISTED, 1/27/00

OREGON, HOOD RIVER COUNTY, Butler Bank, 301 Oak Ave., Hood River, 9901713, LISTED, 1/27/00

OREGON, MULTNOMAH COUNTY, Wesley Apartments, 5310 N. Williams Ave., Portland, 99001714, LISTED, 1/27/00

OREGON, MULTNOMAH COUNTY, Clatsop Carnegie Library, 410 N. Main St., Gresham, 99001715, LISTED, 1/24/00

SOUTH CAROLINA, SPARTANBURG COUNTY, Spartanburg Historic District (Boundary Extension), 100 Blk. of E. Main St., Spartanburg, 00000019, LISTED, 1/28/00

SOUTH DAKOTA, CLAY COUNTY, South Dakota Department of Transportation Bridge No. 14-060 022, Local Rd. over Spring Creek, Wakonda vicinity, 00000020, LISTED, 1/28/00 (Historic Bridges in South Dakota MPS)